CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A method for treating non-neuropathic pain comprising topically administering a composition containing a local anesthetic to a patient near a pain locus in an amount sufficient to produce analgesia without causing anesthesia.

2.   The method of claim 1 wherein said local anesthetic is lidocaine.

3.   The method of claim 1 wherein said local anesthetic is applied from a transdermal patch.

4.   The method of claim 3 wherein said patch comprises 1-10% local anesthetic.

5.   The method of claim 3 wherein said patch comprises 1-10% lidocaine.

6.   The method of claim 3 wherein said patch comprises 4-6% lidocaine.

7.   The method of claim 2 wherein said local anesthetic is applied from a transdermal patch comprising 5% lidocaine.

8.   The method of claim 1 wherein said non-neuropathic pain to be treated results from a soft-tissue injury.

9.   The method of claim 8, wherein said soft-tissue injury is selected from the group consisting of pain associated with ligaments, tendons, muscles, bursa, sprains, strains, inflammations, contusions, arthritises, and post-surgical pains.

10.   The method of claim 1 wherein said neuropathic pain is derived from one or more conditions selected from the group consisting of myofascial pains, fibromyalgia, bursitis, costrochondritis, repetitive motion injuries, carpal tunnel syndrome, and nociceptive pain.

11.   A method for treating non-neuropathic pain comprising the step of:
       topically administering a transdermal patch containing a pharmaceutical composition consisting of 5% lidocaine as an active ingredient, and the remainder consisting of inactive pharmaceutically acceptable materials.

958911_1